

## The Book of Ruth—5 Choosing Your Next Chapter

The decisions you make today will determine the story you tell tomorrow.

### 1. The Providence of God

**The Providence of God: when God uses natural circumstances to bring about His supernatural will**

*Boaz went to the town gate and took a seat there. Just then the family redeemer he had mentioned came by, so Boaz called out to him, “Come over here and sit down, friend. I want to talk to you.” ...*

Ruth 4:1 NLT

### 2. Strategic Plans

*“... If you want the land, then buy it here in the presence of these witnesses. But if you don’t want it, let me know right away, because I am next in line to redeem it after you.” The man replied, “All right, I’ll redeem it.” Ruth 4:4 NLT*

*Then Boaz told him, “Of course, your purchase of the land from Naomi also requires that you marry Ruth, the Moabite widow. That way she can have children who will carry on her husband’s name and keep the land in the family.” Ruth 4:5 NLT*

*“Then I can’t redeem it,” the family redeemer replied, “because this might endanger my own estate. You redeem the land; I cannot do it.” Ruth 4:6 NLT*

**One of the most spiritual things you can do is make a plan.**

*Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty. Proverbs 21:5 NLT*

*“And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today.” Ruth 4:10 NLT*

### 3. Faith-Filled Prayers

- Naomi ... **May the Lord give you a husband. (1:9)**
- Ruth ... **May the Lord deal with me if I leave you. (1:17)**
- Boaz ... **May the Lord be with you. (2:4)**
- Workers ... **May the Lord bless you. (2:4)**
- Boaz ... **May the Lord repay and bless you. (2:12)**
- Ruth ... **May I continue to find favor. (2:13)**
- Naomi .... **May the Lord bless the man who blessed you. (2:19)**
- Boaz ... **May the Lord bless you. (3:10)**

*Then the elders and all the people standing in the gate replied, “We are witnesses! May the LORD make this woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, from whom all the nation of Israel descended! May you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.” Ruth 4:11 NLT*

*For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was [God’s] plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 1:9 NLT*

*... Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.*

Matthew 1:16 NLT

## TALK IT OVER

Read **Proverbs 21:5**. Think about what you want your life to look like a year from now. What plans do you need to put in place to make that happen?

Consider a pivotal moment or experience in your life. Talk about how your life would look different if you hadn't had that experience. How can you see the providence of God as you look back on that time?

What do faith-filled prayers look like to you? What prayers are you waiting for God to answer? Share these with your LifeGroup, and spend time praying together.

Start the *Reset Your Life: Wisdom From the Book of Ruth* Bible Plan using Plans With Friends: [www.go2.lc/ruth](http://www.go2.lc/ruth)